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## The 'Throat' Mystery Deepens

IN AN OUTPOURING OF JOURNALISTIC sleuthing about journalistic sleuthing, at least three books are in the works by authors who think they've got a lead on the identity of that elusive Watergate informant, Deep Throat.

But don't expect the mystery to be settled for all time: These latest theorists don't entirely agree with one another.

Wilmington *News-Journal* reporter Joe Trento is preparing a manuscript that contends the famous snitch was a composite of sources for Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the Washington *Post* team that helped crack Watergate.

"Some people are claiming that John Paisley was Deep Throat," confided Trento, referring to the CIA agent whose body was found floating in Chesapeake Bay in 1978 and who will be the focus of his book.

"It's clear that Bernstein and Paisley were at the same private parties during the Watergate period. But I'm inclined to believe there's no single Deep Throat."

Trento's theory coincides to some extent with an

account being prepared by two ex-CIA staffers, who will write that the *Post*'s scoops "evolved out of a wife-swapping ring of CIA officials and prominent Washington journalists," according to a report by Jeff Stein in next month's issue of *The Progressive*. They claimed to Stein that they can show the agency manipulated the *Post* through Deep Throat in order to dethrone Richard Nixon and his private band of spooks, the plumbers.

The third book is being prepared by Random House writer Jim Hougan, who says he is surprised at the CIA-sex theory. "My book will name as Deep Throat someone who most people have never heard of," he said.

Woodward wouldn't comment, and Bernstein was on vacation. However, another Watergate theorist denounced the wife-swapping talk as "a basement rumor." One former Deep Throat suspect, David Gergen, an ex-Nixon speechwriter now with President Reagan, said, "When they get through naming all the candidates for Deep Throat, we'll have an annual reunion in Yankee Stadium."

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